

- 2 -

24. (Twice Amended) A transgenic plant comprising a transgene encoding a heterologous gene of interest operatively associated with a *SHORT-ROOT* promoter, said promoter consisting essentially of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and functioning to promote stele-specific expression in shoots of a plant, so that the gene of interest is expressed in shoots.

27. (Amended) The plant of Claim 25, wherein said gene of interest is a *SHORT-ROOT* gene that is overexpressed in said plant under conditions effective to cause said plant to be less susceptible to lodging than a wild-type plant.

31. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule functions to promote stele-specific expression in roots and shoots of a plant.